

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A suspension comprising:
a metal material defining at least a portion of the suspension;
an adhesive bonded to a portion of the metal material; and
a composite material having a higher stiffness to weight ratio than the metal material and being bonded to the same adhesive layer that is bonded to the metal material , the adhesive layer being thinner than .00025 cm
~~the composite material.~~
2. (Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the metal material defines a load beam of the suspension and the adhesive and the composite material are positioned on the load beam.
3. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the metal material defines a base area of the suspension and the adhesive and the composite material are positioned on the base area.
4. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the metal material defines a spring area having a first bonding area, the composite material defines a load beam having a second bonding area and the adhesive is bonded between the first bonding area and the second bonding area.
5. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the metal material defines a spring area having a first bonding area, the composite material defines a base area having a second bonding area and the adhesive is bonded between the first bonding area and the second bonding area.

6. (Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the composite material comprises a high performance plastic.

7. (Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 6 wherein the composite material comprises a liquid crystal polymer.

8. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the composite material comprises a reinforced plastic.

9. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the composite material comprises a metal matrix composite.

10. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 9 wherein the metal matrix composite comprises aluminum with alumina fibers.

11. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the composite material comprises a ceramic material.

12. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the composite material comprises a glass material.

13. (Currently Amended) A suspension comprising:
a suspension body formed from a layer of metal; and
a composite stiffener formed from a composite material and
bonded directly to a portion of the suspension body by
a single adhesive layer that is thinner than .00025
cm~~the layer of metal.~~

14. (Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite stiffener is bonded to a base area of the suspension body.

15. (Original) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite stiffener is bonded to a load beam of the suspension body.

16. (Original) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite material comprises a high performance plastic.

17. (Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite material comprises a reinforced plastic.

18. (Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite material comprises a metal matrix composite.

19. (Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite material comprises a ceramic material.

20. (Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite material comprises a glass material.

21. (Currently Amended) A suspension comprising:

a suspension body formed from a layer of metal; and
stiffener means formed of a composite material for
increasing the stiffness of selected areas of the
suspension and bonded directly to the suspension body
by a single adhesive layer that is thinner than .00025
cm~~the layer of metal.~~

22. (Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 21 wherein the stiffener means comprises a composite material bonded to a base area of the suspension body.

23.(Original) The suspension of claim 21 wherein the stiffener means comprises a composite material bonded to a load beam of the suspension body.

24.(Original) The suspension of claim 21 wherein the stiffener means comprises a composite material having a higher stiffness to mass ratio than the layer of metal.

25.(Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 21 wherein the stiffener means comprises a metal matrix.